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JUN '16  
COVER A

# ASSASSIN'S CREED



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COMICS



# ASSASSIN'S CREED®

## + SETTING SUN

All the hours Charlotte has logged in the Animus are put to the ultimate test as she and Galina set out to rescue Kody from his kidnappers. With a lot of luck, and some fast thinking, they may even get him back in one piece...

But Quila and Pardo have run out of options, and luck is no longer on their side. Marked for sacrifice, their lives are in the hands of men blinded by power and faith...

When you've finished reading the issue, email your thoughts and comments to  
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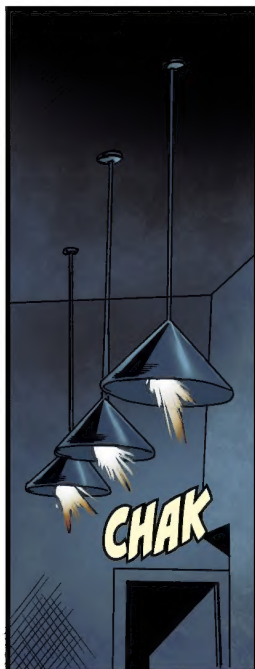
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Estadio Azteca, Mexico City, 2016.



\*TRANSLATED FROM THE SPANISH.





LOOK AT ME. I'M LIKE A  
COMIC-BOOK HERO.

IF LITTLE GAMER-GIRL  
ME COULD SEE WHAT I  
CAN DO NOW, SHE'D BE  
SPILLING HER BIG GULP  
ALL OVER THE  
CONTROLLERS AND  
WOULDN'T EVEN CARE.

THOSE FUNNY-BOOKS  
SAY THIS SHOULD BE  
EXHILARATING, AMAZING.

BUT RIGHT NOW? ALL I  
FEEL IS PISSED OFF.



BECAUSE THIS IS THE  
FIFTH PERSON I'VE  
BADLY HURT - AND I  
DON'T THINK I'M EVEN  
HALF DONE.



AND NONE OF THIS  
HAD TO HAPPEN.

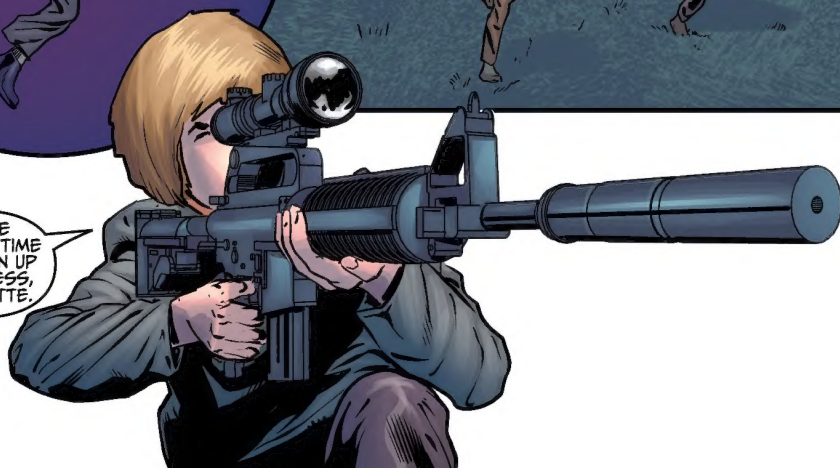


THE  
SOUTH END  
IS CLEAR,  
GALINA.





YOU'RE WASTING TIME TO CLEAN UP YOUR MESS, CHARLOTTE.







LOOK, GALINA... I SHOULD NEVER--

STOP. I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANYTHING FROM YOU.



ALRIGHT, I SCREWED UP. I GET IT. BUT WHERE'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY? YOU BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF THE DOCTOR. IF SHE WALKED OUT UNHARMED, KODY WOULDN'T BE DOWN THERE.

IF THE DOCTOR WAS DEAD THEN SHE SPEAKS NO WORDS AT ALL AND KODY IS SAFE.



IF YOU DON'T RUIN THE LOPEZ MISSION THEN WE ARE GONE FROM HERE. YOU CALL THAT RESPONSIBILITY?

PFFFT  
PFFFT



THEN WHY'D YOU BRING ME IF YOU CAN'T TRUST ME?

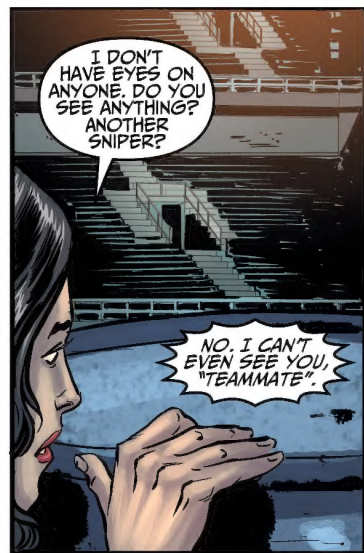
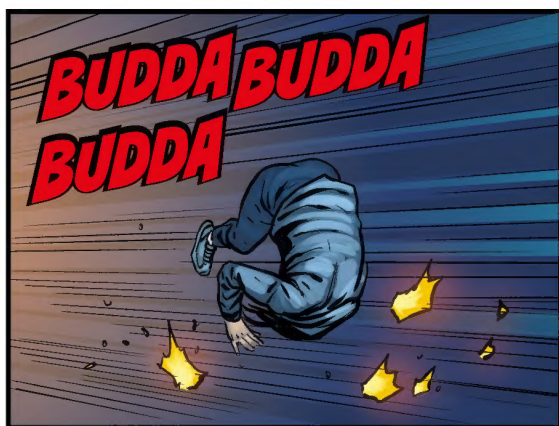
BECAUSE THIS JOB I KNOW YOU'LL DO RIGHT. ME, MAYBE YOU HATE, BUT YOU CARE ABOUT KODY.

YOU'D DIE BEFORE YOU LET HIM BE HURT AGAIN.

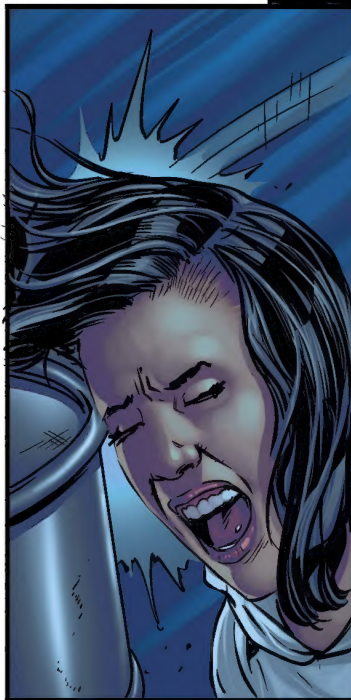


BUT IF I AM WRONG? I HAVE SNIPER RIFLE.









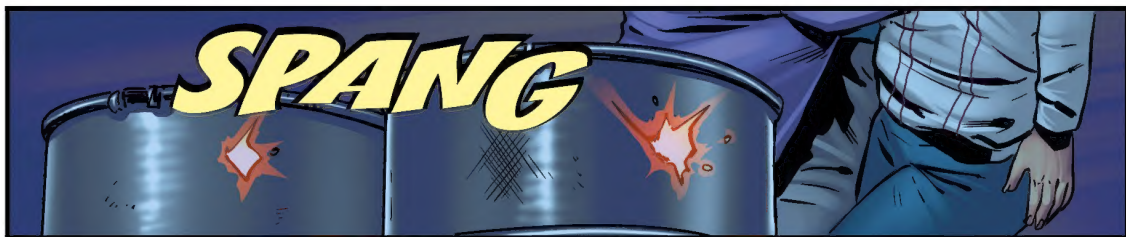
I GUESS WE BOTH FOUND THE SAME PLACE TO HIDE FROM BULLETS, HUH, GRINGA?



I'VE GOT THE CHICA... AND I STILL SEE THE LITTLE GRINGO WITHOUT AN EAR, BUT WHAT I DON'T SEE IS YOU, PUTA.



YOU'RE THE ONE I REALLY WANT. SO, YOU HAVE TEN SECONDS TO COME OUT, HANDS UP OR, BANG, BANG, SAY BUENAS NOCHES TO YOUR FRIENDS.



MOVE, GALINA! GET A BETTER SHOT!

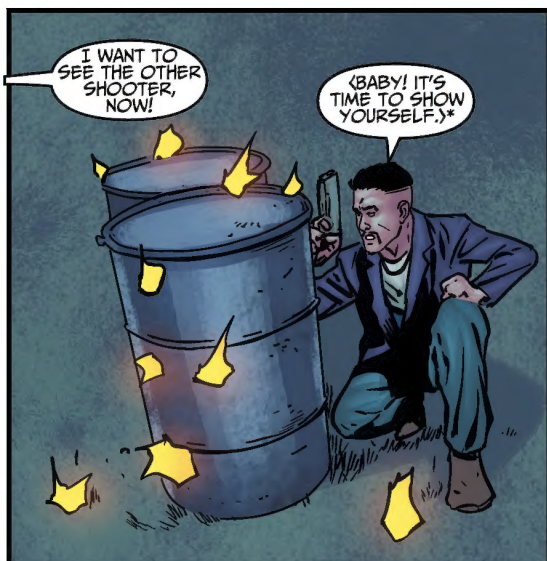
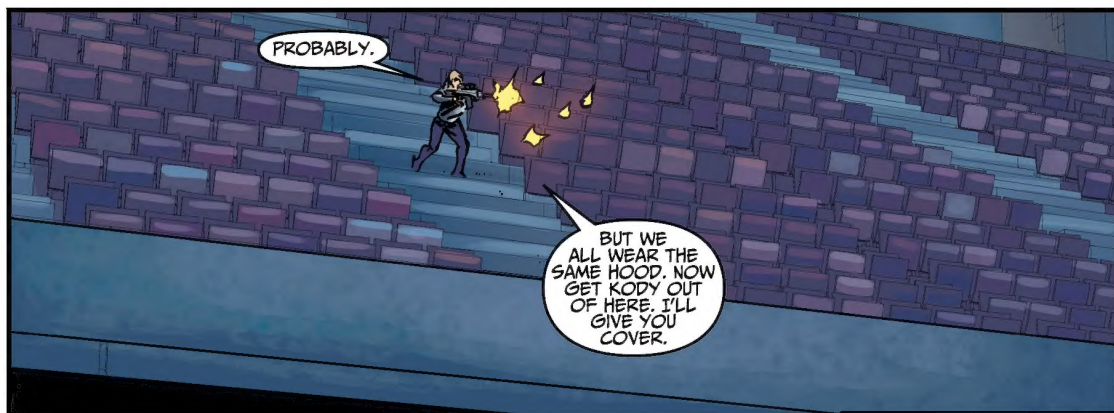


AAAAHH!

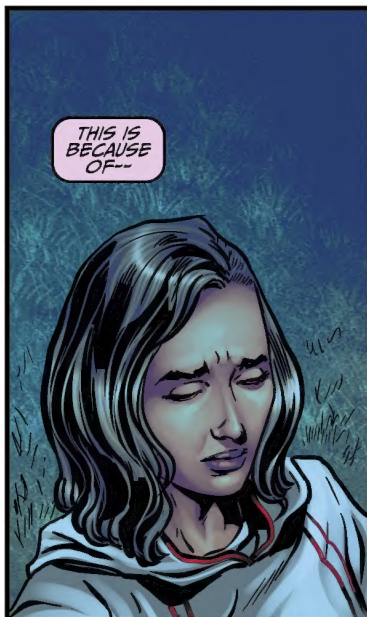


YOU HEAR THAT, PUTA? THE NEXT ONE'S GOING IN HER HEAD UNLESS YOU COME OUT!

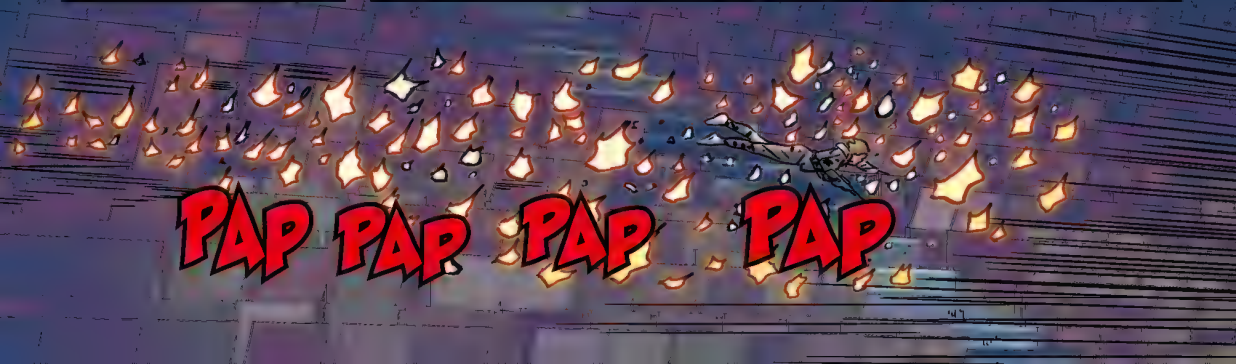
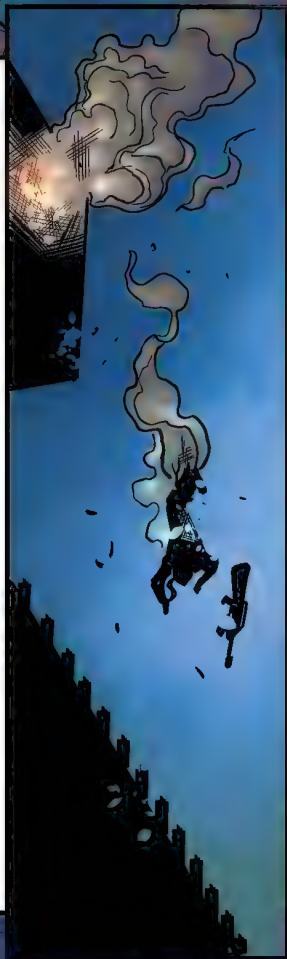




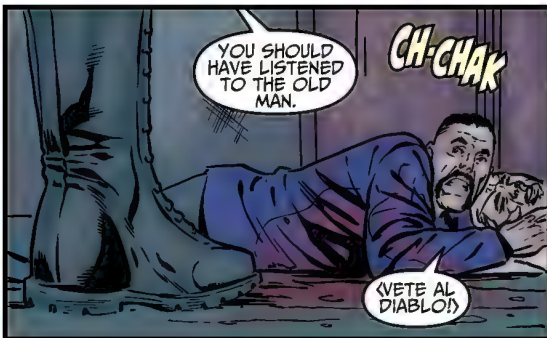
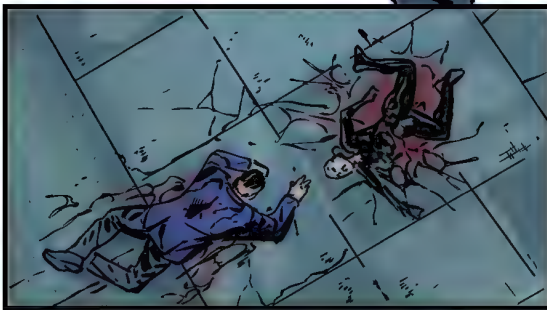
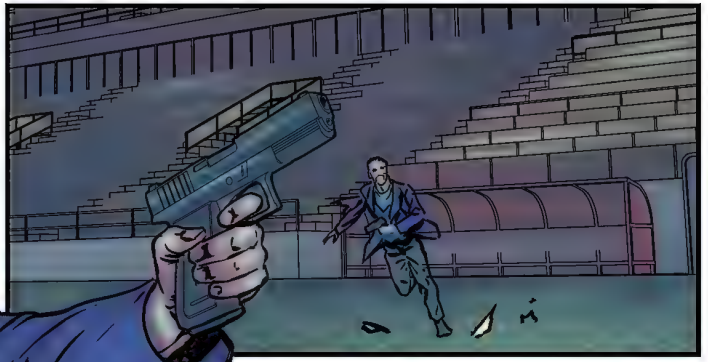




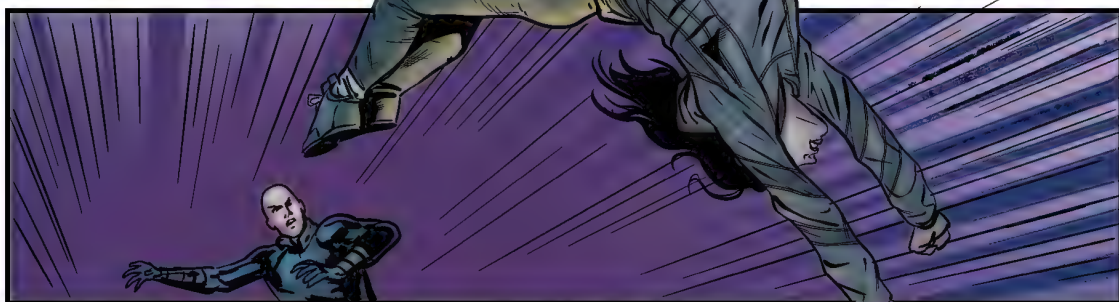




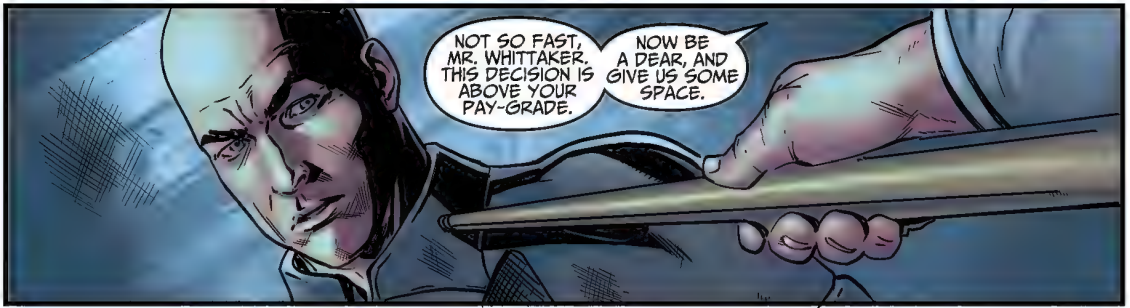












NOT SO FAST, MR. WHITTAKER. THIS DECISION IS ABOVE YOUR PAY-GRADE.

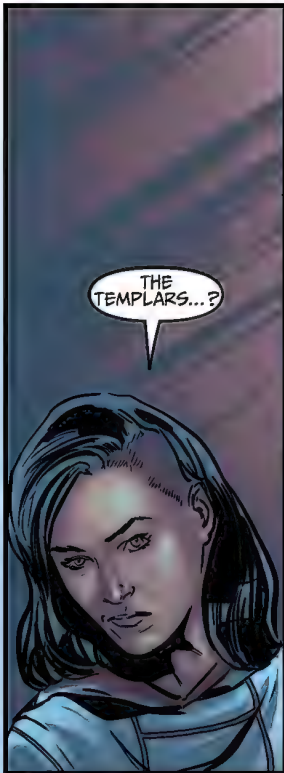
NOW BE A DEAR, AND GIVE US SOME SPACE.



CHARLOTTE DE LA CRUZ. LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF: ORTEGA SANCHEZ.

NICE THREADS. MY MONEY WAS ON COLONEL SANDERS.

YOU'RE AS SPIRITED AS SAN DIEGO SAID YOU WERE.



THE  
TEMPLARS...?



YOUR WALKING GORILLA THERE SAID I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BULLETS. HE'S WRONG.

I ONLY NEED ONE.



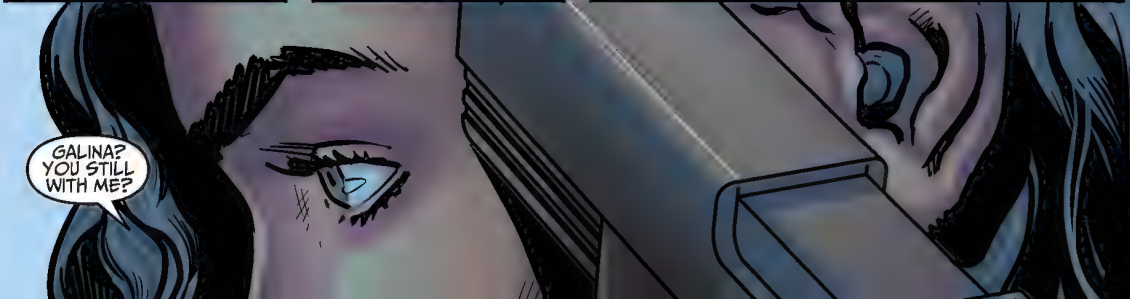
TAKE ONE MORE STEP AND YOUR PRIZE PRISONER ISN'T GOING TO BE MUCH USE TO YOU.

YOU OVERESTIMATE YOUR VALUE.

DO I? JOSEPH HAD A PRETTY GOOD EXPLANATION OF WHAT MY VALUE WAS.

JOSEPH WAS HARDLY A RELIABLE SOURCE.

YEAH, WELL IT SEEMS YOU CHASED ME ALL THE WAY FROM CALIFORNIA. SO, I KINDA THINK HE WAS ON TO SOMETHING.



GALINA? YOU STILL WITH ME?

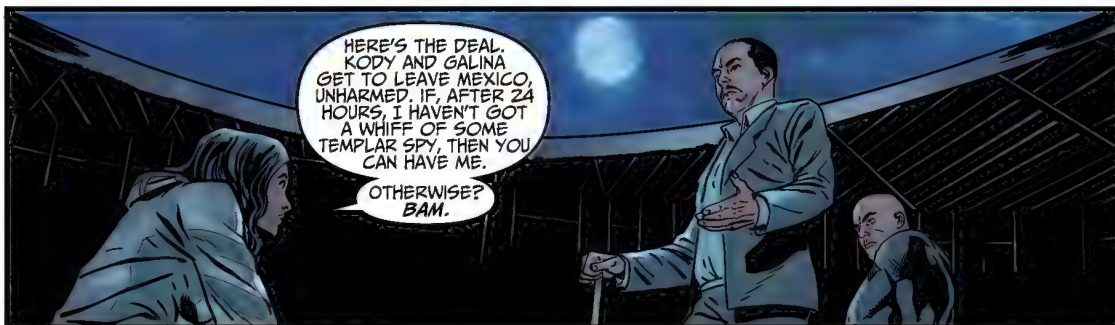




TAKES MORE  
THAN THAT TO  
FINISH ME, BUT  
WHAT ARE YOU  
DOING, GIRL?



TAKING  
RESPONSIBILITY.



HERE'S THE DEAL.  
KODY AND GALINA  
GET TO LEAVE MEXICO,  
UNHARMED. IF, AFTER 24  
HOURS, I HAVEN'T GOT  
A WHIFF OF SOME  
TEMPLAR SPY, THEN YOU  
CAN HAVE ME.

OTHERWISE?  
BAM.



I DON'T  
WANT TO. I'M  
WILLING  
TO.

I'M WITH  
THE ASSASSINS. WE  
PROTECT OUR OWN,  
EVEN IF IT MEANS  
BLOOD.

YOU REALLY  
WISH TO DIE,  
MS. DE LA  
CRUZ?



AND IF I LET  
YOU LEAVE, YOU'LL  
JUST... COME  
TO US?

ONCE I KNOW  
KODY AND GALINA  
ARE SAFE - I'LL BE  
AT THE AIRPORT  
BY SIX PM.

IT'LL  
HAVE TO  
BE.

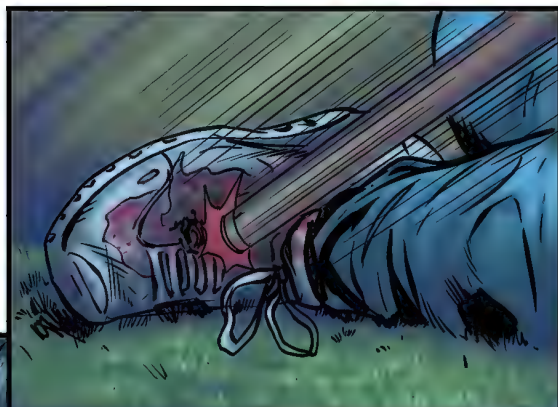
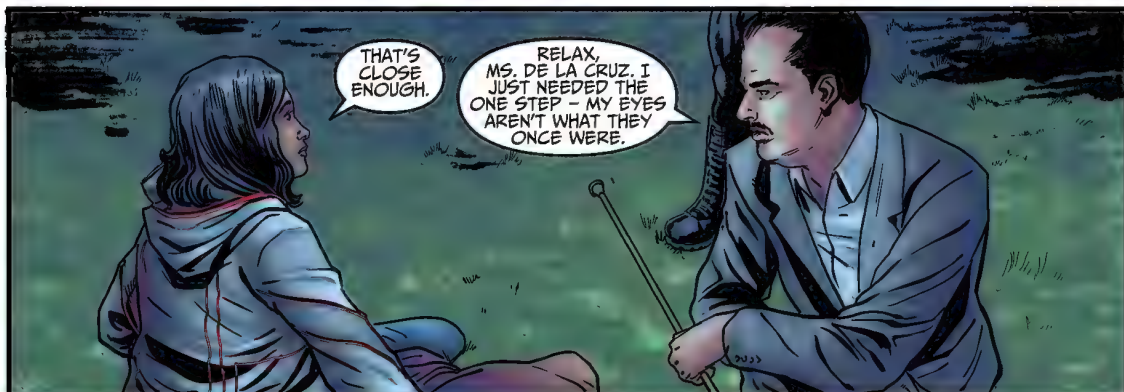
NOT  
ENOUGH....



PITY. WE  
LOOKED FORWARD TO  
LEARNING FROM YOU,  
CHARLOTTE.

STILL... AT  
LEAST I'LL BE ABLE  
TO SHOW MY FELLOWS  
THE HEAD OF GALINA  
VORONINA. THAT'S NOT  
NOTHING.

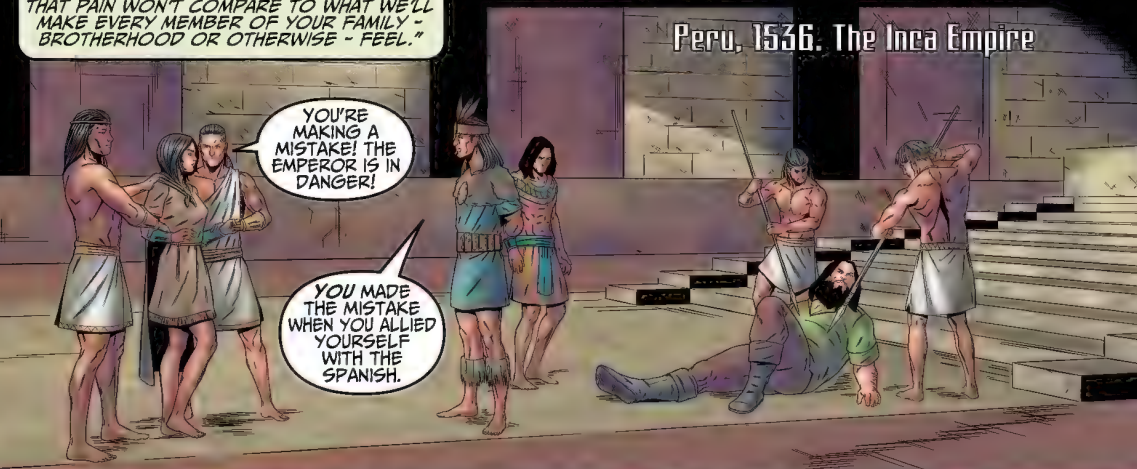






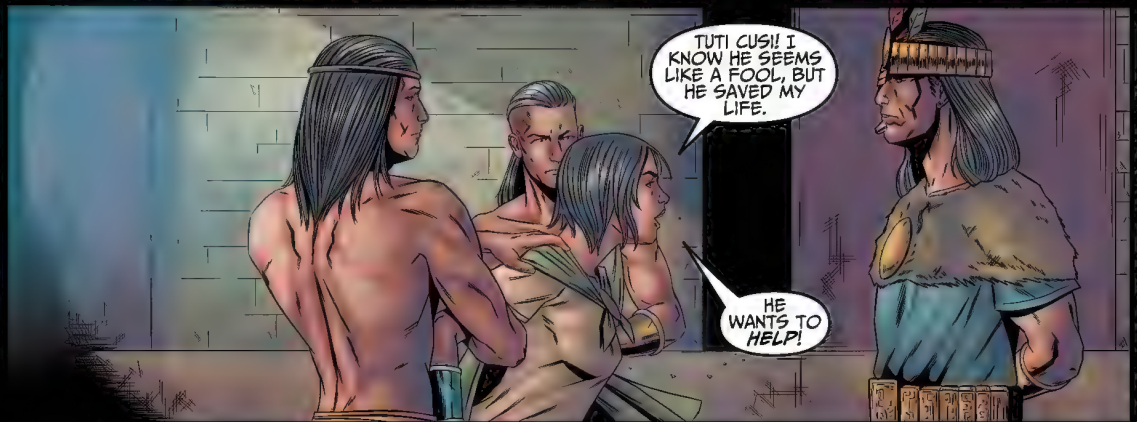
"...BECAUSE IF YOU BREAK YOUR WORD, THAT PAIN WON'T COMPARE TO WHAT WE'LL MAKE EVERY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY - BROTHERHOOD OR OTHERWISE - FEEL."

# Peru, 1536: The Inca Empire



YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE! THE EMPEROR IS IN DANGER!

YOU MADE THE MISTAKE WHEN YOU ALLIED YOURSELF WITH THE SPANISH.



TUTI CUSH I KNOW HE SEEMS LIKE A FOOL, BUT HE SAVED MY LIFE.

HE WANTS TO HELP!



AYAR, PLEASE... THE EMPEROR'S LIFE IS AT STAKE. WE HAVE TO WARN HIM!



HA HA HA!

QUILA... PLEASE... STOP TELLING STORIES. YOU'RE ONLY MAKING THINGS WORSE.

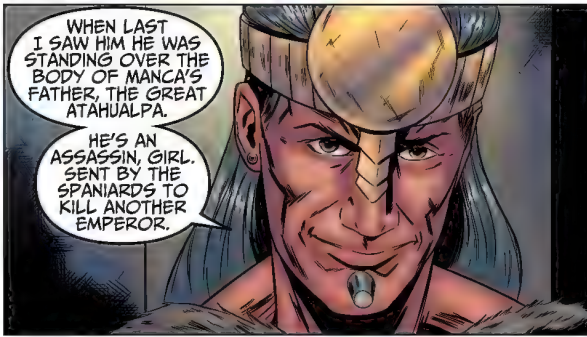


A CONQUISTADOR WANTS TO HELP? DID YOU EVER THINK TO ASK WHY?

HE WON'T SAY, JUST SAYS IT'S HIS RESPONSIBILITY.

I KNOW WHY. I KNOW HIM.





WHEN LAST I SAW HIM HE WAS STANDING OVER THE BODY OF MANCA'S FATHER, THE GREAT ATAHUALPA.

HE'S AN ASSASSIN, GIRL. SENT BY THE SPANIARDS TO KILL ANOTHER EMPEROR.



YOU ARE NOTHING BUT A TOOL OF THE SPANISH.



YOU'RE LYING!!!!



PARDO... THIS CAN'T BE TRUE...

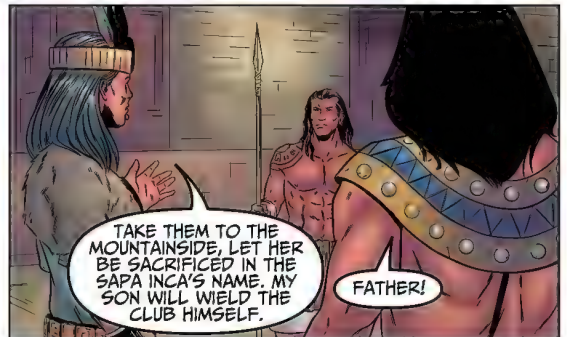
HE DIED BECAUSE OF ME, LITTLE WARRIOR.



FATHER, IF THIS IS TRUE THEN QUILA IS INNOCENT. SHE WAS USED.

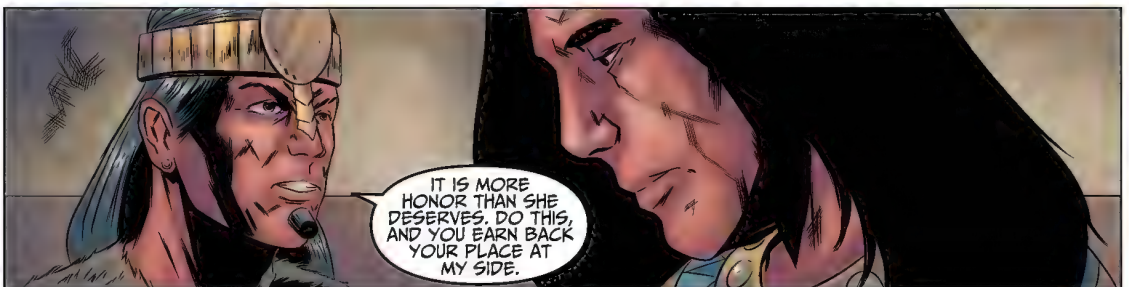
AND I WILL BE MERCIFUL.

NO....



TAKE THEM TO THE MOUNTAINSIDE, LET HER BE SACRIFICED IN THE SAPA INCA'S NAME. MY SON WILL WIELD THE CLUB HIMSELF.

FATHER!



IT IS MORE HONOR THAN SHE DESERVES. DO THIS, AND YOU EARN BACK YOUR PLACE AT MY SIDE.





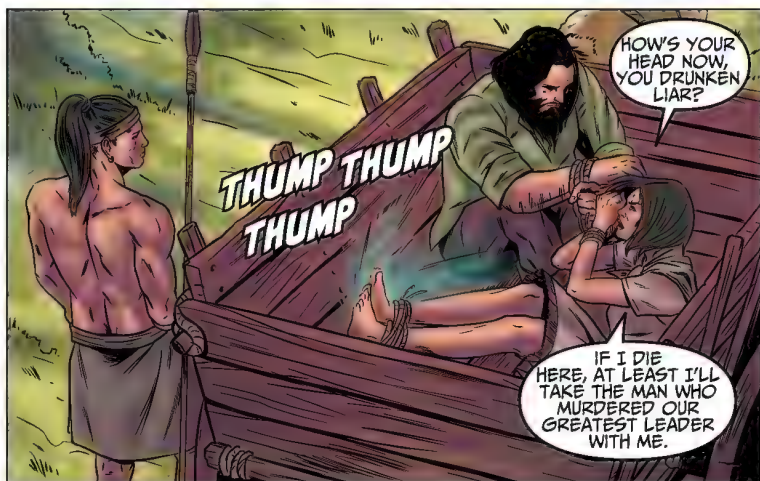
"...QUILA AND DON GONZALO PARDO MUST DIE FOR THEIR CRIMES AGAINST THE EMPEROR."



I DESERVE AN ANSWER!



NOT SO LOUD...



THUMP THUMP THUMP

HOW'S YOUR HEAD NOW, YOU DRUNKEN LIAR?

IF I DIE HERE, AT LEAST I'LL TAKE THE MAN WHO MURDERED OUR GREATEST LEADER WITH ME.



WAS THAT WHAT I WAS TO YOU? A TOOL TO KILL THIS EMPEROR AS WELL?

YOU COWARD! STILL YOU CAN'T TELL ME THE TRUTH!





I DIDN'T KILL HIM...

WHAT?

I DIDN'T KILL ATAHUALPA.



I WAS SUPPOSED TO SAVE HIM. HE DIED BECAUSE I WAS TOO LATE.

LIES!



THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO ABHOR TYRANNY, QUILA WE... THEY... DO WHATEVER THEY CAN TO CREATE A BALANCE.

I INFILTRATED PIZARRO'S COMPANY. MY MISSION WAS TO MAKE SURE HE FAILED IN HIS ATTEMPT TO DESTROY YOUR PEOPLE'S HOPE.



BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO FAILED.



I WANDERED YOUR COUNTRY, FELL EVEN DEEPER IN LOVE WITH THE INCA, WHILE FALLING DEEPER INTO BOTTLE AFTER BOTTLE.

IF YOU WERE SUCH A FAILURE, WHY HELP ME?

I THOUGHT THAT IF, SOMEHOW, I COULD SAVE MANCO I COULD MAKE UP FOR MY PAST SINS.

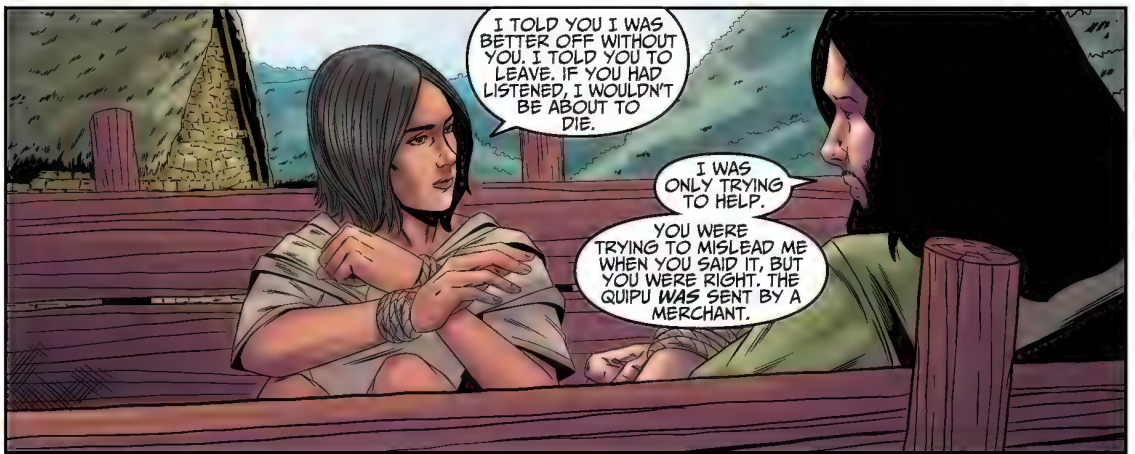
BUT I FAILED AT THAT TOO. I COULDN'T EVEN CONVINCE ONE LITTLE WARRIOR TO BELIEVE IN ME.

STOP.



WE'RE HERE.

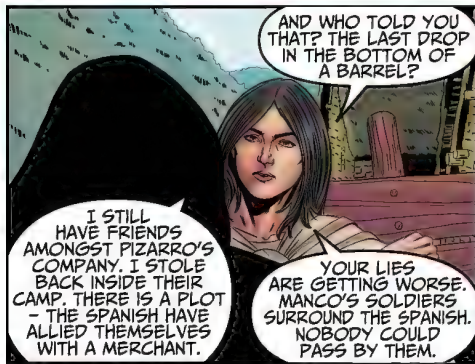




I TOLD YOU I WAS BETTER OFF WITHOUT YOU. I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE. IF YOU HAD LISTENED, I WOULDN'T BE ABOUT TO DIE.

I WAS ONLY TRYING TO HELP.

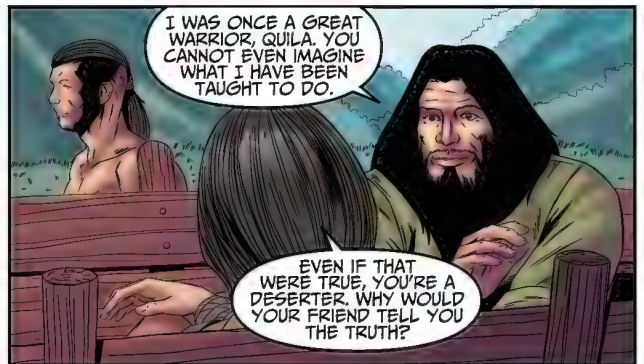
YOU WERE TRYING TO MISLEAD ME WHEN YOU SAID IT, BUT YOU WERE RIGHT. THE QUIPU WAS SENT BY A MERCHANT.



AND WHO TOLD YOU THAT? THE LAST DROP IN THE BOTTOM OF A BARREL?

I STILL HAVE FRIENDS AMONGST PIZARRO'S COMPANY. I STOLE BACK INSIDE THEIR CAMP. THERE IS A PLOT - THE SPANISH HAVE ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH A MERCHANT.

YOUR LIES ARE GETTING WORSE. MANCO'S SOLDIERS SURROUND THE SPANISH. NOBODY COULD PASS BY THEM.



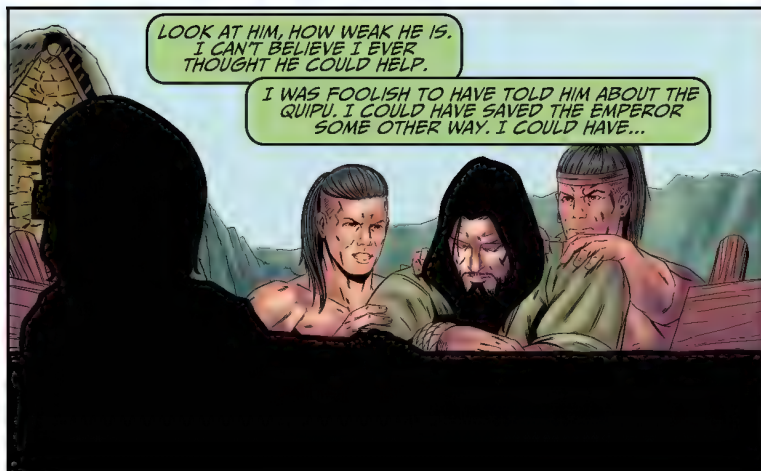
I WAS ONCE A GREAT WARRIOR, QUILA. YOU CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE WHAT I HAVE BEEN TAUGHT TO DO.

EVEN IF THAT WERE TRUE, YOU'RE A DESERTER. WHY WOULD YOUR FRIEND TELL YOU THE TRUTH?



WE GOT DRUNK.

OF COURSE. THE ONLY THING THE GREAT DON GONZALEZ PARDO IS TRULY GOOD FOR.



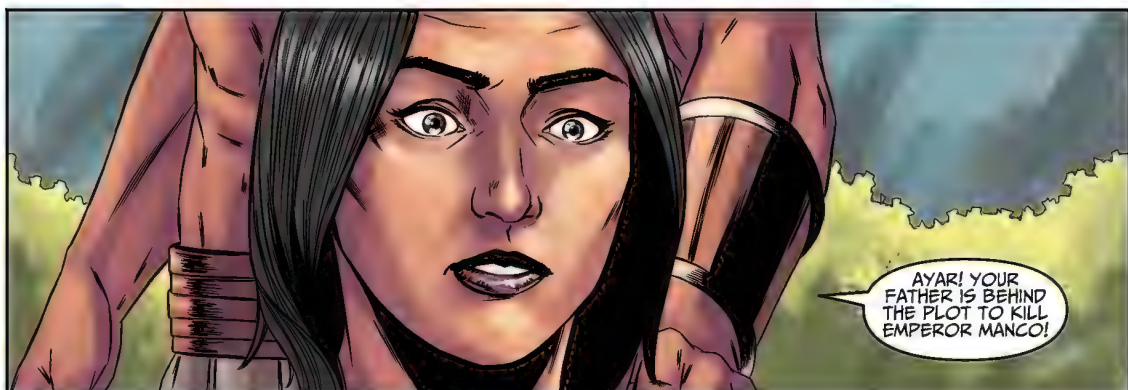
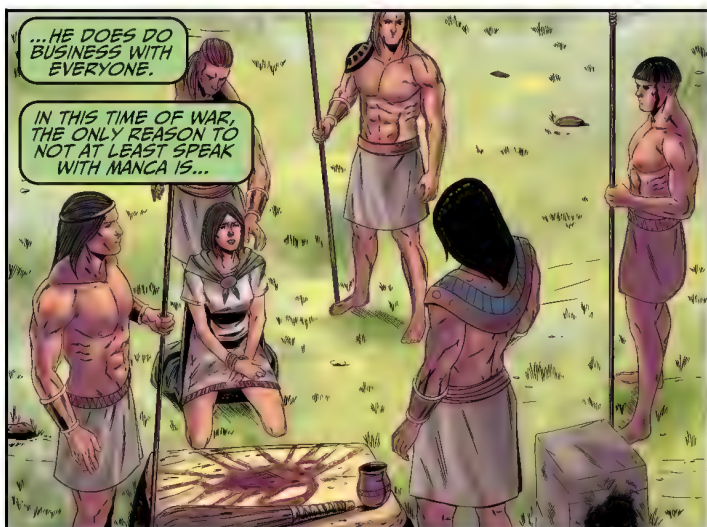
LOOK AT HIM, HOW WEAK HE IS. I CAN'T BELIEVE I EVER THOUGHT HE COULD HELP.

I WAS FOOLISH TO HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT THE QUIPU. I COULD HAVE SAVED THE EMPEROR SOME OTHER WAY. I COULD HAVE...

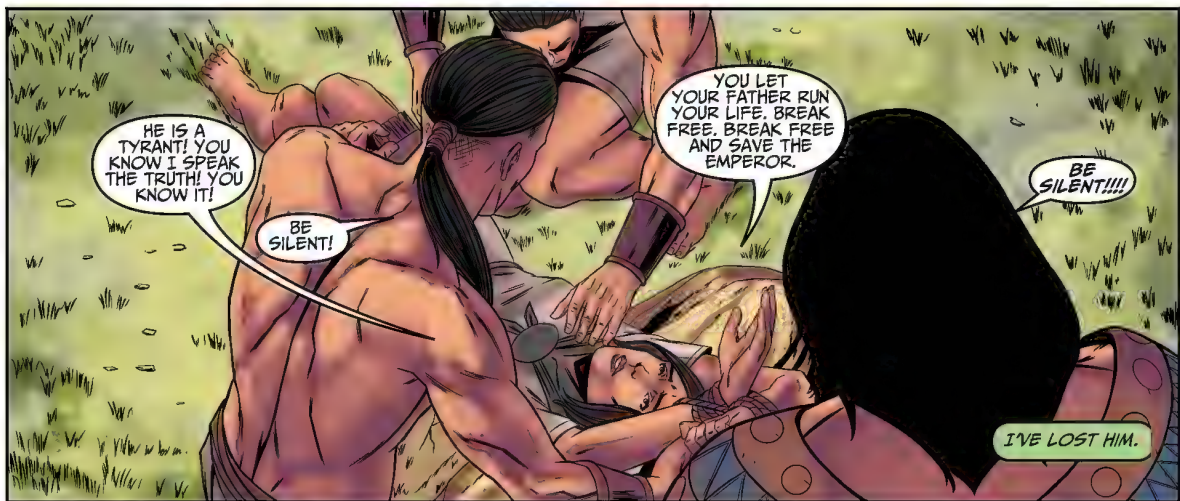


WAIT... THE QUIPU... IT SAID "ALL ACCOUNTS WOULD BE SETTLED"...











# ASSASSIN'S CREED

## SETTING SUN

PART 4 OF 5

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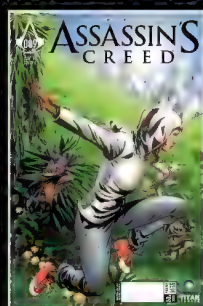
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# NEXT ON SALE JULY ISSUE



## PIECES AND PLACES

Charlotte has made a deal with the cartel that will save the dwindling Assassin cell from annihilation. Galina is just going to have to accept that! Only... that's not really how Galina does things, and she has no intention of letting Charlotte call the shots... and no intention of losing any more Assassins!



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# INCA EMPIRE

## THE IMPORTANCE AND PRESTIGE OF RITUAL SACRIFICE IN AN EVER-SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

The incredible success of the Inca Empire is difficult to understand in modern terms. It established itself, and was destroyed, in a little over a hundred years. Through violence and subjugation, the Inca gained control of vast tracts of land in the Andes, and maintained that control thanks to an intricate and regimented class system.

The success of the empire relied on the symbiotic relationship between the laboring and elite classes. The Andean mountain range the empire spanned was subject to a variety of natural disasters, situated as it was within the Pacific "Ring of Fire". Volcanic and tectonic disturbances were regular occurrences, and while the Inca government could mitigate for the damage to some extent – thanks to their well-stocked storehouses and practice of redistributing resources in times of strife – an excellent example of centrally controlled disaster relief in a pre-Industrial society – they could not explain the disasters that befell them, nor go any ways toward mitigating against future calamity. And so, like many groups before, and after, them, they turned to religion, or at least, ritual. It is the ritual of human sacrifice in Inca society that has had

the greatest impact and it is recorded as being called *Qhapaq Hucha*, translated as "solemn sacrifice".

The ceremonies of *Qhapaq Hucha* took place throughout the year, and are generally believed to commemorate a significant event in the life of the Sapa Inca, such as a birth, death, or illness, as well as his succession to the throne. They could also be undertaken in order to prevent natural disasters, or as a part of a major festival. They were complicated events requiring a high degree of organization, as offerings, both human and material, would be transported to the capital city of Cuzco, before they were then redistributed to the provinces in order for the rituals to take place. Archaeological evidence seems to suggest that the majority of ceremonies took place at high-altitude, such as on mountain tops, though some evidence of ceremonies has been found on the shores of Lake Titicaca. The Sapa Inca would perform the first sacrifice, with others taking place in each province at various important *huaca*, religious sites, in order to ensure no corner of the empire was left without a sacrifice.

The prerequisites for being chosen as a sacrifice were that the child had

to be unblemished, completely perfect, without even a freckle, and a virgin. Boys selected were generally under ten years old when they died. Girls could be older, but were normally under sixteen years old. Once selected, the boys were immediately taken to Cuzco, but the girls would often be sent to live in the *acllahausi*, where they would spend a few years learning to weave and sew, and could sometimes live out their days there, if they were not chosen to go on to become a sacrifice. If they were, however, they would travel to the capital as tributes, along with the offerings of silver, gold and other material goods. They were well looked after to ensure they reached the gods as happy as could be, and were paraded through the city dressed in the finest clothes, before being paired off, one boy, one girl, and killed. There were four primary methods of sacrifice; strangulation; suffocation; a blow to the head; or being buried alive. There is no archaeological evidence to suggest that the Inca removed the hearts of their sacrifices. However, the blood of the tributes would be used to decorate statues of idols.

As the name "solemn sacrifice" suggests, it was a great honor to be chosen to give up your life for the Emperor, and the empire. Indeed, some of the sacrificial victims were infants who were still being breastfed when they were sent to Cuzco – demonstrating just how highly-esteemed the ritual was in the society. It is hard to conceive of a nursing mother willingly offering her baby

up to such a fate. The ritual was sealed with prayers to the Sun God, the Thunder God, to keep the Sapa Inca safe and fruitful, and protect his children from harm.

A crucial discovery in the understanding of the Inca practice of human sacrifice was made in 1995, when an expedition by anthropologist Johan Reinhard and his Peruvian climbing partner, Miguel Zárate, uncovered the remains of a young girl, who became known as Juanita, in a crater on the side of Mt. Ampato in southern Peru. The remains were entirely frozen, and so almost perfectly preserved. Juanita provided the academic community tremendous insight into the Inca ritual, as investigation revealed that she had died as a result of a blow to the head, had eaten a meal of vegetables a few hours before her death, and was wrapped in a highly decorated tapestry for her burial. Other ice mummies were excavated from the same crater, thought to have made their way to that final resting place when a volcanic eruption in the mountain range caused an ice melt. That dislodged the original burial site, and deposited the bodies and the various offerings buried alongside them in the crater. The mummies were remarkably well-preserved, with the clothes and accoutrements of Juanita especially suggesting that she belonged to a wealthy Cuzco family, further solidifying the theory that it was a great honor to die for the glory of the Inca Empire.

TO BE CONTINUED...





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